

Staff Headlines

11th February 2021

Reminder - Face coverings now required

Staff are reminded that they are now required to wear face coverings in communal areas (i.e. areas away from their desks including toilets, corridors, reception areas etc.) in EA buildings.

Staff are also expected to continue to wear face coverings where they are in enclosed spaces for periods exceeding 15 minutes, even where social distancing can be maintained.

Where staff are unable to wear face coverings due to medical conditions, they should liaise with their line manager. Face coverings will be available to staff in the reception area of all our offices.



Mental Health First Aider Support

We currently have 101 staff on our Mental Health First Aider network. The Mental Health First Aiders are based in a range of locations and Directorates across the EA to offer workplace support for anyone who is going through some form of mental health issue.

The role of a Mental Health First Aider in the workplace is to be a point of contact for an employee who is experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress. This interaction could range from having an initial conversation through to supporting the person to get appropriate help and signposting to mental health helplines and agencies.

If you are interested in joining or hearing more about the network please contact the Health and Wellbeing Team via email at: healthandwellbeing@eani.org.uk

I've got time to talk

[Mentalhealthfirstaid](https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/)

Introducing the Game Changing Gateway

Our Organisational Development and Learning (OD&L) team are excited to announce the launch of the Game Changing Gateway, a Microsoft Teams site through which all EA employees can access a wide range of resources, top tips, toolkits and guidance designed to help your leadership journey in EA.

The learning resources will provide real and immediate support for every day issues you may face and provide lots of exercises to work through with your teams. Resources range from how to avoid burnout to managing your workload effectively to strategic planning - there is something for everyone at every level.

- A Digital platform of resources mapped to EA's Game Changing People Model.
- Access resources on pressing topics and challenges to support you and your team.
- Access to self-directed learning at your own pace - bite-sized resources at your fingertips, anytime, anywhere.
- Have your say on what future topics the OD&L team can develop for you and your teams.
- Accessible via MS Teams on desktop, laptop, mobile devices or download the PDFs and share with your colleagues

To access the **Game Changing Gateway** and all its resources simply click [here](#) or alternatively:

- access Microsoft Teams
- click on the 'Teams' icon on the panel on the left-hand side
- click 'Join or Create Team'
- select 'Game Changing Gateway'

For more information take a look at our [Gateway Poster](#) - we would encourage you to share it with all members of your team.



EA HealthWell Online Hub available to all Corporate and School Staff

The uncertain nature of the pandemic along with the current restrictions, are placing pressure and a wider range of competing stressors on all EA staff. Health and Wellbeing support for everyone is crucial to get us through this challenging time.



The [EA HealthWell Online Hub](https://healthwell.eani.org.uk) was one source of support fast-tracked to meet staff needs during the early pandemic period and continues to be a valuable source of support for all things health and wellbeing.

Accessibility for all staff:

- The “Hub” is accessible 24/7 for 365 days a year via your PC, mobile phone or other internet capable device.
- For those without email the full address of the Hub is <https://healthwell.eani.org.uk>

What is the [EA HealthWell Online Hub](https://healthwell.eani.org.uk)?

If you are not already familiar the “Hub”, it is a digital online solution developed to support the themes of EA’s staff focused Health and Wellbeing Strategy by improving EA staff accessibility to key health and wellbeing information and initiatives.

This interactive website provides all EA employees with support, education, tools, apps, signposting and information on a wide range of topics as a way of improving their overall health and wellbeing.

The “Hub” compliments and communicates the EA HealthWell Programme. This Programme includes a wide range of initiatives, sessions and campaigns organised in partnership with EA Health and Wellbeing Champions, and others, to support staff wellness. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to [check out](#) the remainder of the programme for this financial year.

Do all your staff and colleagues know about the [EA HealthWell Online Hub](https://healthwell.eani.org.uk)?

Whilst we are pleased with the spike in users on the “Hub” we recognise the need to ensure every EA staff member, in EA office buildings, out-centres and schools, is aware of this easy to access support provision.

At this time we ask that you share this communication and in particular linked promotional [poster](#) with relevant staff. The trade unions have endorsed this promotion and are equally keen to ensure that the Hub reaches all staff, in particular those who do not have direct email access.

If you have any queries or suggestions for Hub content please contact the Health and Wellbeing team on the details provided.

Email: Healthandwellbeing@eani.org.uk Tel: 028 9041 8023

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Today is International Day of Women and Girls in Science, and EA would like to highlight some initiatives we support to place a much-needed focus on girls entering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers.

EA staff provide support for teachers and students in the delivery of outdoor education programmes including virtual fieldwork resources for science. or more information click [here](#).

EA also work in partnership with schools on an initiative called MEGA to promote STEM as a career pathway, you can hear from some female trailblazers by [clicking here](#).

Northern Ireland Water - Primary School Initiatives

Due to lockdown, Northern Ireland Water’s Education Team have not been able to complete their usual face to face visits and so they have created new virtual lessons and developed a number of resources for schools. Virtual lessons and resources can be accessed by emailing education@niwater.com. They are also giving away a free Waterbutt to any primary school that requests access to the virtual lessons and resources AND other water saving freebies. Read more [here](#).

They have also launched a schools poster competition with a focus on saving water and how much water we use every day. This competition is normally only open to entries via school but this year they have opened the competition up to pupils that are remotely learning. You can find out more about the competition via the relevant links below.

Link for teachers for poster competition entries being submitted via a school: [HERE](#)

Link for parents for poster competition entries being submitted via an individual not through their school: [HERE](#)

We want to hear from you

If you have any news or stories that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming edition of Staff Headlines, email comms@eani.org.uk

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